



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

by

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

and

Azerbaijan Science Foundation (ASF)

The Call is open between 24 August 2023 and 17 November 2023

1. Preamble

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) and Azerbaijan Science Foundation (ASF) invite industrial enterprises, universities and research centers/institutes of Türkiye and Azerbaijan to submit joint proposals for research, development and innovation (R&D&I) projects.

There must be at least one industrial enterprise from Türkiye and one industrial enterprise from Azerbaijan in a joint project.

Universities and Research Centers/Institutes can participate in a project as a partner of industrial enterprises.

2. Objectives of the Call

The aim of the call is to allow partners to collaborate internationally and gain access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge, and expertise, in order to enhance the quality of their research and enable them to translate research and innovation into economic and societal benefit.

The funding will be provided jointly by TÜBİTAK and ASF in the form of project grants.

3. Main Thematic Areas:

This call is opened for applications in all scientific and technological areas.

4. Scope of the Call:

The acquired technological knowledge and experience is an accelerating and guiding factor in the development of original technologies by internalizing the Industrial Enterprises and to contribute to the participation of Industrial Enterprises in international markets. Basic research projects are not supported within the scope of this call. Instead, the projects, focusing to research and experimental development (R&D), technologically new or improved product and technological process innovation, are expected.

Within the framework of this call, projects with the following objectives are planned to be supported:

- Producing a new product;
- Raising the product quality of standards;
- Developing new techniques to reduce costs and increase standards;
- Developing new production technologies.

4.1. Definitions of Innovation

4.1.1. Innovation: Innovation expresses that a series of scientific, technological, technical, financial and commercial activities including transforming an idea into a salable, new or improved / recovered product or a new or improved method used in the production of goods and services, the process of making or creating technological innovation; except for changes in color or decoration and changes in the purely aesthetic field and appearance differences that do not change the structure, quality or performance of the product in technical terms.

4.1.2. Innovation in product: This term refers to technologically new product that shows technological differences regarding the essence in terms of its material parts and functions when compared with the previous product generation.

The classification of product innovation is stated below:

- a. Development of New Models of an Existing Product in the Company (adaptation studies carried out to develop new products with changes made in a basic product or to apply an existing product to a new area);
- b. Development of a New Product for the Company (development of a product similar to which is available in the market or in the sector but is not in the company's product range);
- c. Development of a New Product Platform for the Company (development of a fundamental product from which new models can be derived);
- d. Development of a New Product for the Country;
- e. Development of a New Product for the World (development of a product that is not in the world markets focusing a new idea).

4.1.3. Innovation in production methods/process: It refers to the method used in the production of new or improved products that cannot be produced in traditional production facilities or in the production of products currently produced with new techniques. The classification of process innovation is stated below:

- a. Development and application of new techniques to achieve cost reducing or standard / quality enhancing results.
- b. Development of a new method or technology related to production.

4.2. R&D Stages to be Supported

The projects to be supported under this call are expected to include all or some of the following R&D stages:

- Concept development,
- Technological/technical and economic feasibility etude,
- Laboratories and similar studies that take place in the transition from the developed concept to design,
- Design, design application and design verification studies,
- Prototype production,
- Trial production and type tests.

Investment-oriented projects for full scale production or production infrastructure for the purpose of expansion or new setup are not supported as they are not suitable for the objectives of the program. Industry partners are encouraged to leverage on their existing set up for the industrial trials and prototype testing. Machines and equipments purchase is to support R&D activities.

5. Financial Issues

4.800.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP)) can be requested from TÜBİTAK per project. In this scope:

- Turkish academia/public institution partners that are eligible for funding can receive **up to 2.000.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overheads and Project Incentive Premium-PIP) of funding per project** in total.
- Turkish small and medium sized enterprises can receive **up to %75 of the** approved budget;
- Turkish large-scale enterprises can receive **up to %60 of the** approved budget;
- Universities and Academic Research Centers/Institutes can receive **%100** of the approved budget for a project.

The fund requested from TÜBİTAK is calculated by multiplying the project budget with the support rate. In projects involving more than one partner organisation, the total fund requested from TÜBİTAK is the sum of the amounts obtained by multiplying the project budget of each partner organisation with the relevant support rate.

Also, **Azerbaijani partner** that is eligible for funding can receive the following budget:

- Azerbaijani partners can receive **up to 300.000 Azerbaijani Manat** per project.

TÜBİTAK-funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by TÜBİTAK in accordance with the rules of TÜBİTAK 1071 Programme. Detailed information can be achieved via https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_ar-ge_ve_yenilik_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf website address.

Similarly, ASF-funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by ASF according to its funding guidelines and procedures: <https://www.aef.gov.az/az/pages/view/121>

Please, liaise closely with prospective partners to ensure that both TÜBİTAK and ASF-supported elements of the proposal abide by all regulations for both funders.

The costs of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists will be covered on the following basis:

- The sending Party will meet all related costs connected with travel, lodging and allowances according to their own regulations.
- The sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists.

6. Duration of the Projects

The duration of the projects should not exceed three years (36 months).

7. Proposal Submission

- Joint Call will be open between 24 August 2023 and 17 November 2023.
- Turkish partners will make their application via TÜBİTAK's online system <http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr/>.
- Azerbaijani partners will make their online application by <http://e-grant.aef.gov.az/Home/Enter/?ReturnUrl=%2fCompetition%2fReview>
- The partners should come to an agreement with each other using their own means of communication and jointly develop and complete their project proposal before submitting it to TÜBİTAK and ASF. **TÜBİTAK and ASF do not match the collaborating partners.**
- Applications which are not submitted **on both sides** will not be accepted for evaluation. Hence, Turkish/ Azerbaijani project leaders should make sure that their counterpart submits a matching application.
- Each national applicant shall need to consult with the National Rules & Regulations imposed by the corresponding Managing Authority. Applications which are found to be ineligible by one of the Managing Authorities will automatically render the whole proposal as ineligible.
- Applicants are eligible to submit more than one proposal under this call.
- The proposals should be prepared in **English**. In addition, Azerbaijani partners should submit their project proposal in Azerbaijani Language.
- Project proposals must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule.

- Turkish partners will use e-signature for their applications. Detailed information can be achieved via http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/281/ardeb_e-imza_yardim_dokumani.pdf. **Because of that situation, there is no need to send any hard copy to TÜBİTAK.**
- **The Azerbaijani coordinator must submit one hard copy to:**
 - The Azerbaijan Science Foundation (ASF)**
 - Address: AZ 1025, Baku, Yusif Safarov 27, 9th Floor
 - Phone: +994 12 489 08 94
 - E-mail: info@elmfondu.az or grant@elmfondu.az
- **Submission of proposals by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.**

8. The Evaluation Procedure

8.1. Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria for the Turkish team can be accessed by Process Document for R&D&I Projects on https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_ar-ge_ve_yenilik_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf website address.

Azerbaijani partners should follow the relevant rules and requirements on Azerbaijani partners should follow the relevant rules and requirements of <https://www.aef.gov.az/az/pages/view/121> website address.

8.2. Evaluation Method

- The proposals that are deemed eligible will be evaluated by TÜBİTAK and ASF in line with their own rules and regulations.
- Following the scientific evaluation, TÜBİTAK and ASF will inform each other a result list that will include the information about approved and rejected project proposals.
- Only the project proposals, which will be approved by TÜBİTAK and ASF will be supported.

8.3. Evaluation Criteria

The project proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific/Technological Excellence;
- Methodology;
- Project Management;
- Importance of International Collaboration;
- Impact.

9. Key Dates

ACTIONS	PERIODS
Application Announcement	24 August 2023
Deadline for Applications	17 November 2023
Deadline for E-Signatures for TÜBİTAK and Submission of Application Documents to ASF	24 November 2023
Announcement of the Results	March 2024

10. Contact Persons on TÜBİTAK and ASF:

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